

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/CCT: EWSCHAEFER:JTBROWNE:NWH

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S/S - MR. ORTIZ

P:EDJEREJIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 169827

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: ASMARA ABDUCTIONS

REF: (A) ADDIS 8502, (B) A-4709, JULY 10, 1975

1. AN IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS LEARNING WHETHER HOSTAGES ARE STILL ALIVE AND WELL. IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE COMMUNICATION FROM THE KIDNAPPERS IN NEAR FUTURE WE SHOULD CONSIDER MEANS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THEM EITHER THROUGH EPMG OR, FAILING THAT, ALTERNATE CHANNELS.

2. REF B, WHICH MAY NOT AS YET HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY ADDRESSEE POSTS, CONTAINS NEW POLICY GUIDANCE PERTINENT TO SITUATION DESCRIBED IN PARA 1 ABOVE AND IS QUOTED FOR YOUR GUIDANCE IN THE CURRENT SITUATION. QUOTE: IF, IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE AMBASSADOR OR SENIOR OFFICER IN CHARGE, THE HOST GOVERNMENT IS NOT ACTING TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE KIDNAPPERS, OR IF NOTWITHSTANDING THE HOST

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GOVERNMENT'S BEST EFFORTS PROGRESS IS NOT BEING MADE TOWARD

THE HOSTAGES' SAFE RELEASE, URGENT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO WAYS FOR THE POST TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE KIDNAPPERS INDICATING A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE US GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. (THE FACT OF US WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE DOES NOT MODIFY US

GOVERNMENT POLICY REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF RANSOM.) THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A SENSITIVE AREA, AND NO ACTION IN THIS REGARD SHOULD BE TAKEN WITHOUT PRIOR WASHINGTON APPROVAL. THIS GUIDANCE IS INTENDED TO GIVE THE POST AN ADDITIONAL OPTION IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES AND, IN ADDITION, WILL AFFORD WASHINGTON FLEXIBILITY IN CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS. THE VITAL CONCERN IS THE MAINTENANCE OF A DIALOGUE. COMMUNICATION WITH THE KIDNAPPERS MIGHT BE EFFECTED THROUGH MEDIA CHANNELS, THROUGH POST CONTACTS WITH EDUCATIONAL, LABOR, OR OPPOSITION LEADERS, OR THROUGH OTHER OVERT OR COVERT CHANNELS THAT MAY BE OPEN TO THE POST. IN MAKING THE RECOMMENDATION, THE POST SHOULD INCLUDE ITS JUDGMENT ON WHETHER THE HOST GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE INFORMED. END QUOTE.

3. WE INSIST THAT EPMG TAKE LEAD IN ESTABLISHING CONTACT. OFFICIAL ETHIOPIAN RADIO BROADCAST REQUESTING INFORMATION RE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF HOSTAGES SEEMS LOGICAL FIRST STEP. IF, DESPITE OUR INSISTENCE, EPMG NOT FORTHCOMING, THEN PARENTS, WIVES AND/OR CISCO PRIVATE APPEAL IS POSSIBILITY. IF EMBASSY CONSIDERS THIS A FEASIBLE OPTION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CABLING A DRAFT APPEAL FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT WISH, HOWEVER, BY ANY INITIATIVE WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO MAGNIFY IMPORTANCE OF HOSTAGES OR TO GIVE KIDNAPPERS EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT THEY MIGHT OBTAIN THROUGH DEMANDS. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS STATEMENT OF POLICY GUIDANCE CONTAINED PARA 2 ABOVE TO BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT PRIOR DEPARTMENT CONSENT. THIS IS STRICTLY AN ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVE TO BE CONSIDERED ONLY IN EXTREMIS. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, INSTRUCTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, TERRORISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchant0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE169827  
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**Film Number:** D750249-0373  
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**Review Authority:** buchant0  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASMARA ABDUCTIONS  
**TAGS:** PINS, (CAMPBELL, STEVEN C), (HARRELL, JAMES J)  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA ASMARA  
**Type:** TE  
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